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**REMARKS:**

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,560,005 ("the Hoover et al. reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,542,907 ("the Cohen reference"). Because neither of the cited references, either alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests the subject matter of the present claims, the rejections should be withdrawn.

First, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 11-19 are allowed.

With respect to the § 103(a) rejections, the Hoover et al. reference discloses an object-based relational distributed database system and associated methods of operation including an object broker that assigns a range of global identifiers to each remote database in the system. The Hoover et al. reference, however, does not teach or suggest an ID administrator configured for receiving requests for ranges of IDs for identifying data items from replicas, and for allocating a new range of IDs to the replica in response to the request from the replica ID manager, a size of the new range of IDs being selected based upon an ID usage rate of the replica, as recited in claim 1.

Turning to the Cohen reference, this reference fails to provide any additional teaching or suggestion that may be properly combined with the Hoover et al. to render claim 1 obvious.

First, the Cohen reference merely discloses a system and method for uniquely identifying replicas of data, i.e., ways to identify replicas of an entire database, and not ways to identify individual records or "data items" within each replica. Thus, because the Cohen reference is directed to an

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entirely different problem than the Hoover et al. reference, it cannot be properly combined to render the present claims obvious.

Further, even if the Cohen reference can somehow be properly combined with the Hoover et al. reference, it fails to provide the additional teaching missing from the Hoover et al. reference. Specifically, the Cohen reference discloses methods that involve dividing the entire ID space into ranges that are static and predefined. For example, at col. 9, lines 12-15, the Cohen reference expressly states that the number of children that a replica may have is constrained by a finite number (set by the described computation). Thus, the Cohen reference merely discloses a range allocation method that is similar to those described in the Background of the present invention, e.g., between page 3, lines 1-18. Accordingly, because the Cohen reference fails to disclose, teach, or suggest selecting a size of a new range of IDs based upon an ID usage rate of the replica, a feature that is wholly absent from the Hoover et al. reference, claim 1 and its dependent claims are not obvious in light of the cited references.

For similar reasons, claim 10, and claim 20 and its dependent claims are also not obvious in light of the cited references. Neither of the cited references discloses, teaches, or suggests submitting a request for a new range of IDs for a replica from a global ID space, a size of the new range of IDs being based upon a usage rate of IDs by the replica, as claimed. In addition, with respect to claim 20, neither of the cited references teaches or suggests monitoring usage of IDs by the replica, and submitting a request for a new range of IDs from the global ID space when the IDs from the plurality of IDs remaining unused by the replica reaches a predetermined threshold, the request comprising a size of the new range of IDs being requested, the size being based upon

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a usage rate of IDs by the replica. This further supports that claim 20 and its dependent claims are not obvious in light of the cited references.


In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims now presented in this application define patentable subject matter over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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